

Ser. No. 10/030,070
Internal Docket No. PF990046
Customer No.: 24498

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 4-8 and 10-12 are pending. Claims 4-8 and 10-12 stand rejected.

Claims 4, 5, 7, and 11 are amended. The claims have been amended to more clearly and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as his invention.

The added feature of establishing: "communication between the at least two users with matching at least profile and viewing is supported by applicant's specification, for example, page 4 line 27 to page 4 line 1, which discloses that the database of the server contains : ...

-....

- Profile of the user (Sex, age, preferred topics...); and
page 7 lines 19 to 21 :

"The user profile can be used as an element to choose the most adequate user among the users watching a given target program.." (Emphasis added).

This feature is advantageous in that it increases the interest of the communication between the users, because, for example, the selected users view the same TV program and have the same or similar profile information.

Claims 13-15 have been newly added and include features deleted from their respective parent claim.

No new matter is believed to be added by the present amendment.

Rejection of claims 4-8 and 10-12 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by DeWeese et al. (2005/0262542)

Applicant submits that for at least the reasons discussed below claims 4, 7 and 11, and the claims that depend therefrom, are not anticipated by DeWeese.

Claim 4 includes the features of: "searching, by the server, for other users who have sent data indicating that they are watching the program; based on at least a profile and viewing data from the other users matching at least a profile and viewing data of the first user, selecting at least a second user among said other users for communication with the first user" (emphasis added).

Claims 7 and 11 recite similar features.

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These features are different from DeWeese because DeWeese only discloses the feature of the user searching for a chat group. In contrast to a user searching for a chat group in DeWeese, the present claims recite searching, by the server, for other users; and further, selecting according to the user profile and viewing data. Accordingly, the present principles relate to matching users based on at least a profile and viewing data.

Furthermore, DeWeese discloses a chat application carried on user television equipment that allows the selection of many chat groups. The user can select the chat group of the users viewing the same TV program. DeWeese suggests that the user can also select a chat group according to his user profile. But, DeWeese does not disclose that the selection according to the user profile is done among the users viewing the same program. In DeWeese a user chooses a chat group in contrast to the present principle's server selecting at least one other user based on a profile and viewing data.

The present principle includes the advantage that the server searches for other users who have sent data indicating that they are watching the program; and selects, based on at least a profile and viewing data from the other users matching at least a profile and viewing data of the first user, at least a second user among said other users for communication with the first user.

In DeWeese, there is no teaching or suggestion of a server searching for other users as claimed, nor is there any teaching or suggestion of selecting a user based on a profile and viewing data.

DeWeese does disclose the use of a user profile in the paragraph 0075:

"If desired, the user at a particular user television equipment device may enter profile data that will form the identity of a particular individual....The user profile data may also include the user name"

In the paragraph 0077 :

"...The user profile screen may also present the user with an option to enter favourite categories of programs such as sports programs, movies, news segments, sitcoms..."

and in the paragraph 0085 :

"...The user profile information may be useful for forming chat groups between users..."

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However, as pointed out above, DeWeese allows the selection of many chat groups. The user can select the chat group of the users viewing the same TV program or a user can also select a chat group according to his profile. But, DeWeese does not disclose the selection according to the user profile is done among the users viewing the same program and user profile.

The menu of the figure 19 in DeWeese shows the selectable options for a chat request. The user uses arrows keys on his remote control for selecting one option. According to this menu, it is not possible to select both several options. Thus DeWeese does not suggest that both the options of "currently watching program" and "interested in the category of programs" can be selectable at the same time.

The present principle provides the advantage that the number of selected users watching the same program can be further reduced and more relevant because of the additional profile feature. Moreover, by matching chat users based on profile data, inappropriate chat matching may be avoided, while enhancing the chat experience by allowing users who are more likely to have something in common to connect to each other. For instance, during sporting events, the location of users may be important, as the location will be a more likely indicator of which team a viewer may support. Likewise, chat users may be matched by gender and age, or the like, for security purposes. The use of such profile data for chat user matching is a feature that is not contemplated by DeWeese.

Therefore, as DeWeese cannot anticipate, or even render obvious, the feature of the selection of the user in a chat group being done according to the user profile and the same viewed TV program, DeWeese cannot anticipate claim 4 in its entirety.

Similar to claim 4, independent claim 7 recites "means for establishing a communication between the at least two users with matching data of at least said user profile and viewing data." And similar to claim 4, independent claim 11 recites a "means for establishing a communication with another television receiver through the server, the other television receiver *determined by at least profile and viewing data* of a user of the other television receiver."

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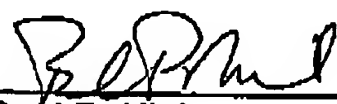
Claim 7 and 11 are independent claims directed to a server and a television receiver, having limitations similar to those of claim 4. Claims 7 and 11 are thus believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as those applied to claim 4.

Claims 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12 ultimately depend from one of claims 4, 7 or 11, and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on an allowable base claim and because each has further distinguishing features.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6815, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

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